

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2663
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5171

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, IS, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION INVESTIGATING
LABOR CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. ISRAEL HERZ OF THE HISTADRUT INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT TOLD LABATT THAT A DELEGATION OF THE
BELGIAN CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (CSC),
HEADED BY ITS SECRETARY GENERAL R. DHONT, IS
CURRENTLY IN ISRAEL OSTENSIBLY ON A FRATERNAL VISIT.
THE DELEGATION ALSO CLAIMS TO REPRESENT THE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR
(WCL).

2. THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES JEAN BRUCK, FORMER
WCL SECRETARY GENERAL, AND G. DENOUE, CSC TREASURER,
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EXPLAINED THAT IT CAME TO ISRAEL ON A TOUR OF THE
MIDDLE EAST IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH FRATERNAL CONTACTS
WITH BOTH THE ISRAELI AND ARAB LABOR MOVEMENTS.
THE DELEGATES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CONTACTS
WITH THE HISTADRUT WOULD FACILITATE BETTER COOPERA-
TION BETWEEN THE WCL AND THE ICFTU. THEY SAID
THEY ALSO SOUGHT TO PROMOTE CLOSER TIES WITH ARAB

TRADE UNIONS IN ORDER TO BRING THEM CLOSER TO THEIR GOAL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATING BETWEEN BELIEVING WORKDERS (TRAVAILLERUS CROYANTS), TO WOO THEM AWAY FOR COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, AND TO OFFER THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN HISTADRUT AND ARAB LABOR LEADERS.

3. HISTADRUT SUSPICION ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE VISIT WAS AROUSED WHEN THE DELEGATION REQUESTED ASSISTANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE LABOR SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS AND TO MEET WEST BANK ARAB PERSONALITIES. ISRAELI IRRITATION WAS REINFORCED BY THE VISITOR'S TIRADES AGAINST GEORGE MEANY AND THE AFL-CIO FOR HAVING UNDERMINED THE FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND FOR HAVING LEFT THE ILO. WHILE HISTADRUT SAID IT WILL COMPLY WITH THE DELEGATION'S REQUEST, IT SUSPECTS THAT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE VISIT MAY BE TO COLLECT ENOUGH DAMAGING MATERIAL AGAINST ISRAEL FOR A REPORT LIKELY TO PLEASE THE ARABS AND TO FACILITATE CLOSER ARAB-WCL COOPERATION. HISTADRUT ALSO SUSPECTS THE TIMING OF THE CSC VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO COINCIDE WITH THAT OF AN ILO MISSION INVESTIGATING CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WEST BANK WORKDERS EMPLOYED IN ISRAEL (SEE TEL AVIV 4896-NOTAL).
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LEWIS

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